

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM  
EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Jim Campbell, External Relations Director

**COPIES:** City Attorney; City Clerk; File

**SUBJECT:** **CREATION OF AND NOMINATIONS TO THE JOINT CITIZENS  
COMMISSION ON CITY/COUNTY SERVICE INTEGRATION**

**DATE:** September 25, 2003

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

An Ordinance creating the Joint City/County Citizens Commission on City/County Service Integration, appointing ten citizens to serve on the Commission together with ten citizens appointed by the Bexar County Commissioners Court and a jointly selected Chair; authorizing a contract in the amount of \$1,000 monthly for a six-month period beginning October 1, 2003 with Thomas F. Brereton for support services for said Citizens Commission; and providing for payment.

Staff recommends approval of this Ordinance.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

During the past two years, the City of San Antonio and Bexar County have found numerous areas in which the coordination of services to citizens that support both governments has resulted in greater efficiencies and more savings of taxpayer dollars. The City and County cooperate in areas ranging from joint magistration to animal control to crime lab analysis, integrating government services into a seamless structure that has minimized the total tax burden while maximizing actual service delivery.

While much progress has been made in these specific areas, there is still a need to evaluate duplication and overlap of functions currently performed by both Bexar County and the City of San Antonio. Given this need, the Citizens Commission on City/County Service Integration is charged to:

- Review best practices and models from other communities, including the role of special authorities and districts;

- Develop and implement community education programs on the desirability of functional consolidation;
- Recommend a plan to transfer and consolidate functions/services between county and city governments or other special authorities that is equitable to both city and county taxpayers, in order to make our structure of government more efficient, effective and accountable; and
- Develop a draft of the state legislation that would be needed to implement the Commission's recommendations.

### **POLICY ANALYSIS**

The Commission will conduct all phases of its work with substantial input from local elected officials, city and county staffs, and the community at large. The Commission will have a small budget to retain consultant services; these funds will be made available through the termination of the existing consultant contract with Thomas F. Brereton for City/County cooperative agreements, and the re-direction of these funds toward a new consulting agreement for City/County integration services with Mr. Brereton.

The Joint Citizens Commission on City/County Service Integration will consist of twenty-one members, who shall be residents of Bexar County, Texas. The City and the County will each appoint ten members. Appointments will be made to ensure representation from all sectors of the City and Bexar County. The Chair of the Commission will be selected jointly by the Mayor of San Antonio and the Bexar County Judge.

Members appointed to the Commission will serve at the pleasure of the City Council. Terms of office will begin October 1, 2003, and City appointees will receive no compensation for their service on the Commission. In addition, all City appointees will be subject to all applicable City Ethics and Financial Disclosure ordinances.

The Commission will meet at least once a month, or as often as necessary in order to produce a full report, to be submitted to both the City Council and the Commissioners Court by April 2004. The report shall then be used during the priority and budget setting process for FY 2005.

Meetings will be subject to the state's Open Meetings Law and any applicable City Charter provisions, codes and ordinances. The Commission shall act only in an advisory capacity and shall have no power to bind the City by contract or other means. It shall be the function of the Commission to advise the City Council on any and all matters related to City-County Integration issues.

Approval of this Ordinance is consistent with the City's policy to collaborate with Bexar County on new and existing initiatives to integrate service delivery to citizens as a means of enhancing the quality and effectiveness of existing services at a reduced cost to the taxpayer.

### FISCAL IMPACT

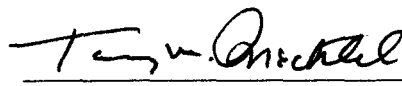
The financial impact associated with this Ordinance will be \$6,000 based on a \$1,000 monthly retainer beginning October 1, 2003 and ending March 31, 2004.

### COORDINATION

This Ordinance has been coordinated with the offices of the City Attorney and City Clerk.

*for*   
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Jim Campbell  
External Relations Director

Approved:

  
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Terry M. Brechtel  
City Manager